

Criminal Justice Planning Fund
(item veto in HB 20 by Rudd)

DIGEST: The appropriation to the Office of the Governor contained five line items that designated certain sums from the Criminal Justice Planning Fund for the Department of Public Safety, the Commission on Jail Standards, the Department of Corrections, the Prosecutors Council and the Supreme Court. These line items would have totaled \$9,015,488 for the biennium.

GOVERNOR'S
REASONS
FOR VETO:

The distribution of Criminal Justice Fund money is governed by a statutory formula (Tex. Code Crim. Proc., art. 1083) that requires that a certain portion of the fund be spent on local projects and a certain portion on statewide projects. The Governor said that by designating more than \$9 million from the Criminal Justice Planning Fund for specific purposes, the Legislature would have used virtually all the money available from the fund for statewide projects. He said the specific allocations in the bill would "jeopardize several currently funded criminal-justice projects, restrict the funding of new projects, and severely limit Texas' ability to provide matching funds to receive federal funds...."

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

Rep. Rudd agreed that it was the intent of the Legislature to allocate most of the money available from the Criminal Justice Planning fund. He said the Governor receives the money in a lump sum, and acknowledged that it was reasonable from the Governor's point of view to veto specific legislative allocations and thereby preserve his control over the money.

Highway Commissioners' salaries
(item veto in HB 20 by Rudd)

DIGEST: The general appropriations bill contained a line item of \$102,300 for each year of the biennium for the salaries of the three commissioners of the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation.